

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-10 LAB-01

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /028 W

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R 080856Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8808

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FOR EUR LABOR ADVISOR GOOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB NO

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF US-NORWAY TRADE UNION EXCHANGES

1. ASPENGREN HAS INVITED AMBASSADOR TO VISIT HIM AT LO HQ OCTOBER 15. AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER JULY 8 (SEE MEMCON OF THAT DATE), AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENT KEENAN AGREED, AT ASPENGREN'S REQUEST, TO EXPLORE WITH PRESIDENT MEANY WHETHER A NORWEGIAN LO INVITATION TO AFL-CIO TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO NORWAY WOULD BE WELL-RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED. (AN EVENTUAL AFL-CIO VISIT TO NORWAY WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY LO SENDING A RETURN DELEGATION LATER.) KEENAN HAS WRITTEN THAT HE TALKED TO MEANY ABOUT IT IN JULY ON HIS RETURN, TO ERNIE LEE ABOUT IT OCTOBER 1, AND THAT LEE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND BE IN TOUCH WITH KEENAN. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMAL, LOW-KEY EXPLORATION YOU COULD MAKE WITH AFL-CIO TO SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING AMBASSADOR CAN USEFULLY SAY WHEN SUBJECT OF DESIRABILITY OF INCREASED CONTACTS WITH AFL-CIO COMES UP AT OCTOBER 15 MEETING WITH ASPENGREN, I.E., WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS REASON TO EITHER ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE HIGH-LEVEL DIRECT APPROACH TO THE AFL-CIO BY NORWAY'S LO AT THIS TIME.

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THAT CONTINUED HIGH-LEVEL OF NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION EXCHANGE ACTIVITY WITH EAST BLOC PRESENTS GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN THIS REGARD. EMBASSY IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT

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SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL DIMINISH, BUT FEELS THAT LO IS OBVIOUSLY

WORRIED ABOUT RESTORING BALANCE BY STRESSING TIES TO WEST.

3. 1975 WILL BE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST NORWEGIAN EMIGRATION TO US. A GREAT MANY NON-LABOR EXCHANGES, COMMEMORATIONS, ETC., ARE ALREADY BEING PLANNED, INCLUDING A ROYAL VISIT TO THE US, AND THE EMBASSY IS ANXIOUS TO ENCOURAGE SUCH A REAFFIRMATION OF NORWEGIAN TIES TO WEST IN GENERAL AND US IN PARTICULAR. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF TRADE UNION EXCHANGE ACTIVITY COULD BE STIMULATED DURING AND TIED IN TO THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATION. EMBASSY IMAGINES THERE MUST BE A STRONG NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CONTINGENT IN MANY US UNIONS INTERESTED IN REAFFIRMING NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN TIES. WE RECALL PARTICULARLY THAT SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDER FURUSETH CAME FROM NORWAY, BUT IMAGINE THERE MUST BE MANY OTHER SUCH CONNECTIONS AT A LOWER LEVEL.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, LABOR UNIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO04531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740285-0193
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741064/aaaaccgk.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBILITY OF US-NORWAY TRADE UNION EXCHANGES
TAGS: ELAB, NO, AFL-CIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005